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Date of Deposit: March 1, 2004

Attorney Docket No.: 15966-551 CON-S2 (Cura-51 CON-S2)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS : Richard A. Shimkets  
SERIAL NUMBER : 09/998,966 EXAMINER : Olga N. Chernyshev  
FILING DATE : October 31, 2001 ART UNIT : 1646  
FOR : NOVEL NUCLEIC ACID SEQUENCES ENCODING HUMAN FIBROBLAST  
GROWTH FACTOR-LIKE POLYPEPTIDES

MAIL STOP AF

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

MAR 09 2004

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), applicants hereby petition for a one-month extension of time to respond to the Final Office action, mailed October 30, 2003 in the above-identified application. With the extension, the response is due on or before Monday, March 01, 2004 (February 29, 2004 being a Sunday). A check in the amount of \$55.00, in payment of the fee required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(1), is enclosed herewith. The Applicants claim small entity status.

Please charge any additional fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 15966-551CON-S2. A duplicate copy of this Petition is enclosed.

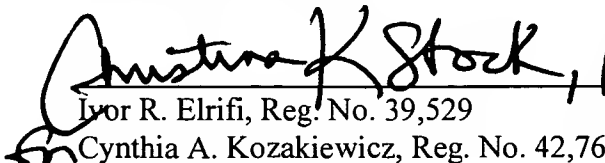
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Dated: March 1, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

  
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